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U.S. and U.K. Support Affordable, High-Quality Protection from HIV

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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The United States, through USAID, and the British Department for International Development launched a new condom brand on November 25 that will ensure all Cambodians, regardless of socio-economic status, have access to high-quality protection against HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

OK Condoms are now available throughout Cambodia at pharmacies, guesthouses and entertainment venues. In addition, NGO partners will sell the condoms directly to target populations. A package of three condoms costs 500 riel, one-fourth the price of privately manufactured and distributed condoms.

The launch of the OK Condom brand is a component of a broader program that aims to reduce the rate of new HIV infections through long-term sustainable prevention efforts. The program, which is jointly funded by the United States and the United Kingdom, is being implemented by Population Services International, an NGO with 15 years of experience fighting HIV in Cambodia.

“This program will ensure that all Cambodians have access to the products and information they need to make informed decisions about their health and well being,” said Katherine Crawford, Director of the Office of Public Health and Education at the USAID in Cambodia. “We must do a better job to ensure that the poor and vulnerable benefit from international and government support, while wealthier populations access their products and health care at non-subsidized prices.”

The effort builds on the Royal Government of Cambodia’s 100% Condom Use Program, which has helped cut Cambodia’s HIV/AIDS prevalence rate to less than 1 percent from a high of 2 percent in 1998, a rare national success story in the global fight against the disease.

The United States has contributed \$120 million in support of HIV/AIDS programs in Cambodia since 1994.